

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-001

Acreage: 666.6

Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Description

This unit of BLM land identified as CO-060-001 is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness, meeting the size requirement criteria. The northern border includes the Uncompahgre Wilderness and the American Flats Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the southern border is the San Juan County line. The Western boarder is Forest Service land with the eastern boarder comprised of private land and the Alpine Loop (Hinsdale CR 20/BLM Road 3303). This parcel was excluded from the American Flats WSA and Uncompahgre Wilderness due to "unnaturalness" during previous LWC inventory conducted by the Montrose BLM in 1979.

(1) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

Located in an alpine tundra zone, vegetation consists primarily of grasses and wildflowers; with steep, rocky, high-mountain terrain dominating CO-060-001. The Alpine Loop (Hinsdale CR 20/BLM Road 3303) coincides with the east border in only a few small segments, but this road does receive heavy vehicle traffic in the summer months. With such small segments bordering HCR 20 it does not detract from the overall naturalness and is not considered in the inventory process. Within this parcel there are two wetlands areas that have the potential to be fens. One area is 2.79 acres and has a low potential and the other area is 13.95 acres with a medium potential.

(2) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

The segments of CO-060-001 bordering the Alpine Loop are along high elevation points to the east and west of Engineer Pass; the remaining majority to the north and west is located between the Uncompahgre Wilderness and Forest Service Land providing outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel provides opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking and wildlife viewing. Hiking trails 3143T, 3140T and one pack animal trail cross through CO-060-001 connecting Forest Service/BLM lands, WSA and Wilderness areas. An estimated $\pm 1,200$ visitors annually.

(3) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value)?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel possesses several different supplemental values. Scenic view points of the San Juan Mountains, historic mining sites, the presence of two potential fens, and there is a low level of lynx habitat.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-001

Result of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Check one

 X The area, or portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

 The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

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Reviewed by District or Field Manager:

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Date: 7/24/13

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.